



United States Coast Guard

Activities Europe



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Guidance for Reporting Security Incidents on U.S. Vessels Operating Outside of U.S. Waters

A recent Breach of Security (BOS) onboard a U.S. vessel operating outside of U.S. waters resulted in two port employees illegally boarding the vessel, demanding cigarettes and threatening the vessel and its crew. This BOS was not reported to the National Response Center (NRC) by the company until three days after the incident. By the time the incident was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard unit with jurisdiction, and that unit was able to contact the vessel to gather information and implement corrective action, eight days had elapsed. When the incident was finally reported to the local country's authorities, they declined to investigate due to the lack of timeliness of the report.

The intent of this ACTIVITIES EUROPE advisory is to reiterate the BOS reporting requirements in Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 101.305 requiring any suspicious activity, a BOS and a Transportation Security Incident (TSI) be reported, without delay, to the NRC. To clarify, a BOS is defined in 33 CFR, Part 101.105 as: "...an incident that has not resulted in a TSI, in which security measures have been circumvented, eluded, or violated". Additionally, "Without delay" is interpreted to mean immediately upon addressing all safety and security concerns. The aforementioned incident meets the criteria as a BOS.

In light of the host nation's unwillingness to take action due to the length of time between the incident and when it was reported to them, it is recommended that any suspicious activity, BOS and/or TSI be reported immediately to Activities Europe and also to the local country's authorities via the local vessel agent in addition to the requirements of 33 CFR, Part 101.305. Timely reporting will facilitate a thorough joint investigation between countries and work towards preventing future incidents.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin, please send your questions or comments to: acteurinvestigations@uscg.mil or call +31 (0) 62-049-0770.


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